

I have had way too much acquaintance with markets that are broken and markets that do not work in recent years to believe that is what we ought to do. I do believe there is something significant happening with respect to our climate changing. I believe this country should take, at a minimum, a series of important "no regret" steps in addressing those issues.

But I have great difficulty with those who believe we should do cap-and-trade bill when you talk about carbon marking trading, given the experience we have had in recent years in other markets. We have discovered that time on the Senate floor is evaporating quickly because health care is taking longer than one would have expected.

We must also do financial reform. I would hope that financial reforms come after health care. My own view is we do financial reform first this year because that would have established the foundation by which people could have confidence in the system that steered this country's economy into the ditch. I have expressed this to the President.

But I understand health care is a very serious problem as well. So we need to consider health care and financial reform. I also hope we can consider the issue of FAA reauthorization; all these things and others are needed to be done before the end of the year. The majority leader understands all of that, is working very hard to try to fit the pieces of that puzzle into the time available.

My only point for expressing the point on the floor is that I would very much hate to lose some important work on energy that affects virtually every form of energy, including energy efficiency, the first ever national RES, more transmission, additional access to oil, and more that will make us less dependent on foreign oil and start to address climate change.

All of that is part of a plan that I think is a plan that will advance the interests of this country. So my hope is that in the coming weeks, as we think through and talk through what should be our agenda in the near future, my hope is we can find a way to move these important parts of an energy bill.

This, I think, should represent a significant opportunity for bipartisanship at a time when there has been precious little. Too little bipartisanship exists right now. But if there is any area in which most of us would believe our country's best interests reside, it has to be producing more energy and doing it the right way, protecting our environment at the same time. That is very much what this Energy bill strives to do.

It will advance our country's interests, and so my hope is that when the calendar turns for the new year, we will have sent to the President's desk an energy policy that has a lot to commend in it for this country's future. I visited personally with the President, the Majority Leader and others about

this idea and commit to working with them on it.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL MESOTHELIOMA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 288 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 288) Designating September 26, 2009, as "National Mesothelioma Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no interviewing action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 288) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 288

Whereas mesothelioma is a terminal cancer related to exposure to asbestos that affects the lining of the lungs, abdomen, heart, or testicles;

Whereas workers who are exposed to asbestos on a daily basis over a long period of time are most at risk, but even short-term exposures to asbestos can cause the disease;

Whereas exposure to asbestos for as little as 1 month can cause mesothelioma 20 to 50 years later;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975, and more than 3,000 products sold in the United States contain asbestos;

Whereas there is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos;

Whereas millions of workers in the United States have been, and continue to be, exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health reported to Congress in 2006 that mesothelioma is a difficult disease to detect, diagnose, and treat;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute recognizes a clear need for new treatments to improve the outlook for patients with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas the need to develop treatments for mesothelioma was overlooked for decades;

Whereas even the best available treatments for mesothelioma typically have only

a very limited effect, and a person diagnosed with mesothelioma is expected to survive between 8 and 14 months;

Whereas mesothelioma has claimed the lives of such heroes and public servants as Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., and Congressman Bruce F. Vento;

Whereas many mesothelioma victims were exposed to asbestos while serving in the Navy;

Whereas it is believed that many of the firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who served at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, may be at increased risk of contracting mesothelioma in the future; and

Whereas cities and localities throughout the United States will recognize September 26, 2009, as "Mesothelioma Awareness Day":

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 26, 2009, as "National Mesothelioma Awareness Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States, Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to observe National Mesothelioma Awareness day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

RECESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 3:15.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:10 p.m., recessed until 3:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY SECURITY THROUGH TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a bill that will increase energy security and combat poverty through greater transparency in the oil, gas and mining industries.

This week, Senator LUGAR and I, along with Senators SCHUMER, WICKER and FEINGOLD, introduced the Energy Security Through Transparency Act. This legislation will require all companies listed on U.S. exchanges to disclose their payments to foreign governments for the extraction of oil, gas and minerals on a country-by-country basis. This disclosure would apply to all companies that file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, regardless of where they are based, and would be added to existing SEC requirements.

This legislation will set a new international standard for corporate and State behavior.

With this bill, we are changing the paradigm within the world's oil, gas and mining companies operate, and,